• COLORADO RIVER •

AQUEDUCT NEWS

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

VOLUME XX | DECEMBER, 1953 | NUMBER 12

December Marks Silver Anniversary Of District

Twenty-five years ago, on December 29, 1928, the Metropolitan Water District's Board of Directors met in the Huntington Hotel in Pasadena to hold its first organizational meeting.

This month, in recognition of the District's Silver Anniversary of public service in bringing Colorado River water into Southern California, the Mayors of fifty cities now in the District joined in designating the week of December 27 to January 2 as Colorado River Aqueduct Week.

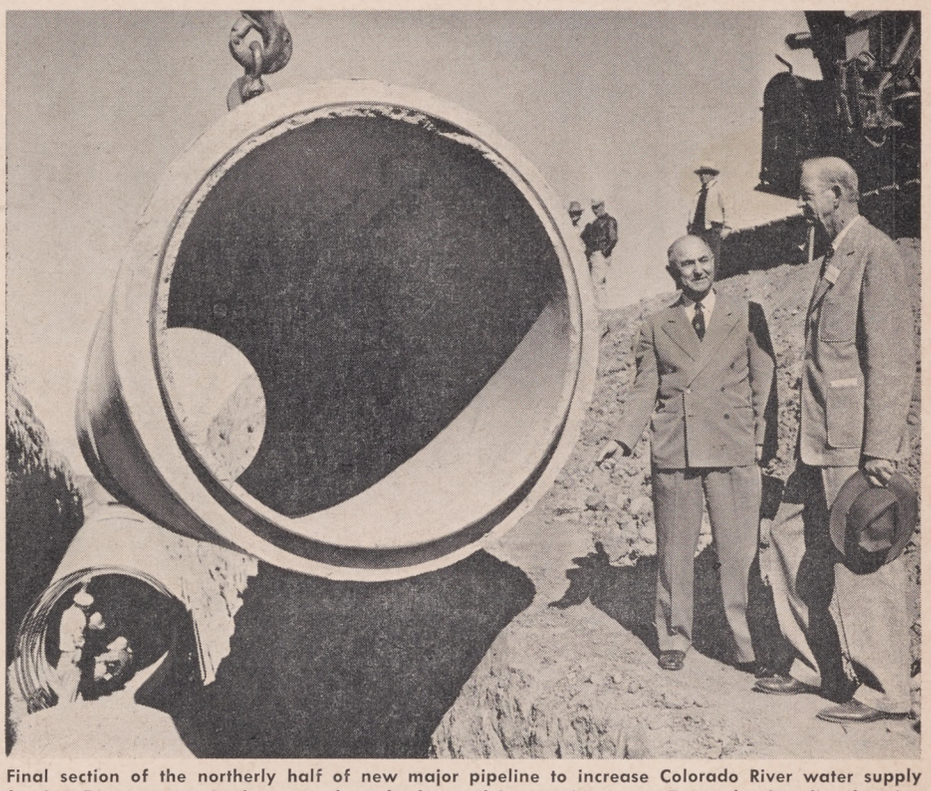
Created by an act of the State Legislature in 1927, the District was organized for the purpose of planning, financing, building and operating a water supply system from the Colorado River. There were eleven cities that originally made up the District.

In September 1931 the District had grown to thirteen cities, and at that time residents of those cities voted by a ratio of more than four to one to authorize a bond issue of $220,000,000 to finance the building of the Colorado River Aqueduct.

Construction work on the Aqueduct started in December 1932, and in June 1941 water from the Colorado River flowed through the world's longest and largest domestic supply line into Pasadena, where the District Directors had met for the first time, nine years earlier.

Today, a quarter of a century after its organization, the District includes 50 incorporated cities and large unincorporated areas. More than 4,000,000 persons in these cities and areas now depend upon Colorado River water. The District's

(Continued on Page Six)



Final section of the northerly half of new major pipeline to increase Colorado River water supply for San Diego county is shown ready to be lowered into position near Temecula. Standing by pipe (left) is General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer and Director Fred A. Heilbron, who represents the San Diego County Water Authority on the District Board. Cost of this section of the San Diego line is being paid for by the District.

Install Last Pipe Section On Northerly Half Of San Diego Second Barrel Project Dec. 11

An important link in the District's $52,000,000 Colorado River Aqueduct expansion program was completed December 11, when the last section of 60 inch diameter pipe was lowered into place on the northerly half of the San Diego second barrel project near Temecula.

The northern section of the second barrel extends from the San Jacinto reservoir to the San Luis Rey river, 34 miles to the south. This portion of the new San Diego feeder line will be operated by and paid for by the Metropolitan Water District.

Attending the pipe laying ceremonies were District Directors Ransom W. Chase

(Continued on Page Six)

1928 -- Silver Anniversary -- 1953

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AQUEDUCT NEWS
THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
306 West Third Street
Los Angeles, California

Published monthly in the interest of Field and Office Workers on the Colorado River Aqueduct, and for the information of all other citizens of the Metropolitan Water District.

VOL. XX DECEMBER, 1953 NO. 12

Driest Year On Record

Rainfall statistics just released by the United States Weather Bureau show that the calendar year 1953 has been the driest in 76 years. Only 4.08 inches of rain were recorded during the year. This is 27 per cent of the average of 15.13 inches. Thus 1953 has set a new and unenviable record with .05 inches less rain than the previous all-time dry year of 1947 when 4.13 inches were recorded.

Southern California is not the only area faced with a drought problem. Rainfall records also show that for the nine Southwestern states 1953 has been generally the driest year on record.

The Bureau's records further reveal that in nine out of the last ten years, rainfall in Southern California has been below normal. The one "wet" year in the decade was 1952, when Mother Nature relented briefly and gave Southern California a generous 26.02 inches of rain, or more than 73 per cent above normal.

However, Southern California water authorities point out that the substantial benefits obtained from the 26.02 inches of rain in the 1951-52 year have been cancelled out by the severe rainfall shortages in the year and a half since July 1, 1952.

They agree that the prolonged series of dry years, coupled with heavy increases in population and industry, would have resulted in a disastrous water famine in a number of Southern California communities if a supply of Colorado River water had not been made available to them.

Interest Rate Policy For New Areas Is Redefined

Areas considering annexing to the District were notified this month of a redefined District policy with regard to the interest rate to be paid in the amortization of back tax obligations.

Under the policy adopted by the Board of Directors on May 12, 1953, it was stated: " . . . that the interest rate to be paid in the amortization of the back tax obligation of any area whose annexation is not completed prior to March 1, 1954 be increased to 4%, ... "

In action taken by the Board of Directors at its meeting December 15, 1953, the policy was re-defined to provide . . . "that the terms and conditions of granting consent to the annexation of any area to this District which may be fixed prior to March 1, 1954, shall provide for the amortization of the back tax obligation of the area on the basis of an interest rate of 3%, and shall include a further condition that the annexation shall be fully completed prior to December 1, 1954; and that the terms and conditions of granting consent to the annexation of any area to this District which may be fixed on March 1, 1954, or subsequently, shall provide for the amortization of the back tax obligation of the area on the basis of an interest rate of 4%."

Back taxes paid by areas annexing to the District represent payments that would have been made by these areas had they been within the boundaries of the District from the time of its organization. Several large sections are now engaged in annexation proceedings.

Director Rossetti Heads Bankers Annual Convention

Victor H. Rossetti, Chairman of the Board of the Farmers and Merchants Bank, and who recently was presented with a twenty-year service pin as a Director on the District Board, has been named General Chairman of the 52nd annual convention of the American Institute of Banking to be held in Los Angeles June 7-11, 1954.

In October of 1953 Director Rossetti celebrated sixty years of service in the banking profession. He was President of the Farmers and Merchants Bank for twenty-two years, retiring in September to become Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer.

Director Rossetti is now serving on the Organzation and Personnel Committee and on the Finance and Insurance Committee.

For the RECORD

(The following items are noted from the report of General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer, filed December 1953, covering District operations for November 1953.)

Colorado River — During November the water level in Lake Mead dropped 2.98 feet to elevation 1150.06 feet, 26.42 feet lower than on November 30, 1952. Usable storage on November 30 was 17,490,000 acre-feet, a decrease of 347,000 acre-feet for the month. At Hoover Dam, the discharge averaged 12,770 cubic feet per second compared with 13,120 during October. At Lake Havasu, the water level varied between elevations 448.4 and 447.3 feet. Average discharge was 8,770 cfs compared with 10,250 during October.

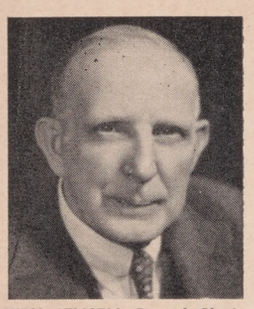
Power and Pumping System — Pumping was continuous with a one-pump output at Hayfield. Peak delivery to the Edison Company system was 143,000 kw. There was no delivery to the Parker system.

Distribution System — San Jacinto reservoir contained 885 acre-feet of water at month's end. Lake Mathews contained 88,689 acre-feet, a loss for the month of 6429 acre-feet. Morris reservoir storage amounted to 22,536 acre-feet. The turnout structure for the La Habra connection on the Orange County feeder was completed. At the Weymouth Softening and Filtration Plant Colorado River water was softened from a natural hardness of 303 to 125 ppm. Daily rate of flow varied from a minimum of 67.4 to a maximum of 131.5 cfs.

Construction — All contract work on the Garvey-Ascot cross feeder was completed on November 25. At Garvey reservoir 155,000 cubic yards of earth was moved, for a total to date of 2,858,000 cubic yards. On the Garvey reservoir to Southern Avenue pipe line, 2,532 feet of 72-inch diameter pipe was laid, for a total of 8,503 feet. On the Southern Avenue to Victoria Street line, installation of pipe in the tunnel section at Atlantic Avenue was completed. At Cajalco tunnel on the lower feeder, 295 linear feet of concrete lining was placed by the end of the month. On pumping plant expansion, fabrication of pumps, motors, discharge valves, butterfly valves, headgates, and miscellaneous equipment and materials is now about 63 per cent completed. Three additional headgates were received, completing delivery of the 5 required.

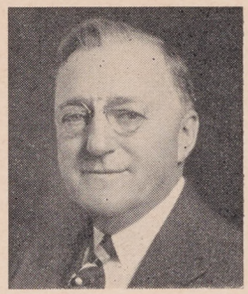
Purchasing — In November, 295 purchase orders and two agreements were issued totaling approximately $46,000.

1928 — AT THE HELM — 1953



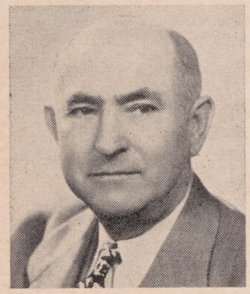
JOSEPH JENSEN, Board Chairman
January 1949 — Present

JOHN RAMBOZ, Board Chairman
July 1948 — January 1949

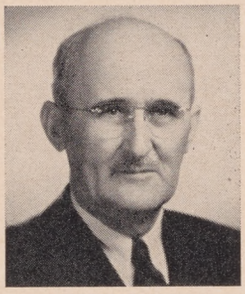


V. H. ROSSETTI, Board Chairman
January 1947 — November 1947

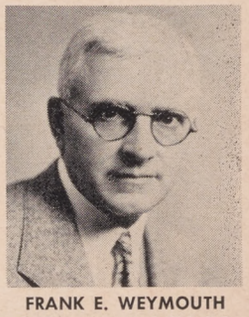
W. P. WHITSETT, Board Chairman
February 1929 — January 1947



ROBERT B. DIEMER
General Manager and Chief Engineer
January 1952 — Present



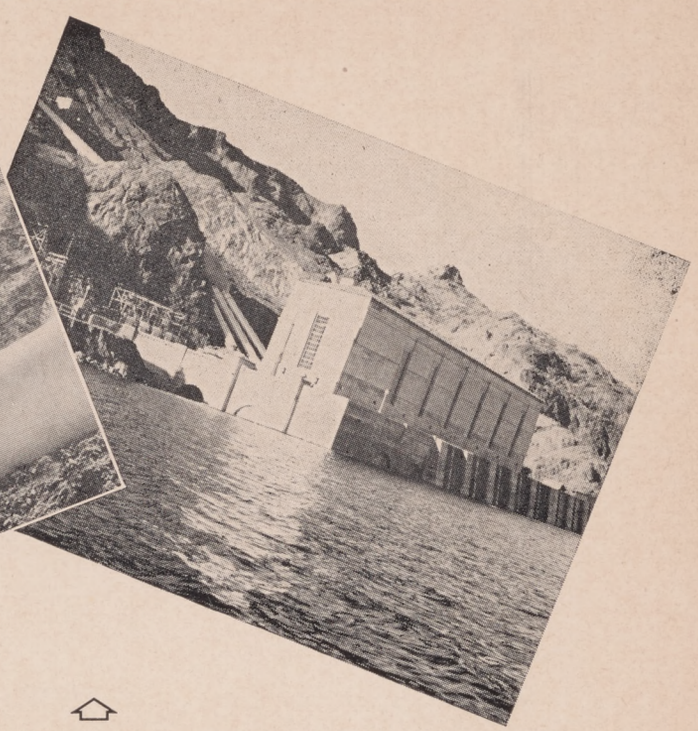
JULIAN HINDS
General Manager and Chief Engineer
August 1941 — December 1951



FRANK E. WEYMOUTH
General Manager and Chief Engineer
July 1929 — July 1941

DISTRICT IS LAUNCHED: The first meeting of the District's Board of Directors at the Huntington Hotel in Pasadena, December 29, 1928: (left to right) Director Harry L. Heffner of San Marino; Director Franklin Thomas of Pasadena (deceased); Director Harvey E. Bruce of Burbank (deceased); Director A. W. Franzen of Anaheim; Director and Board Chairman W. P. Whitsett of Los Angeles; Director Will O. Harris of San Bernardino; Director and Board Secretary S. H. Finley of Santa Ana (deceased); Director W. Turney Fox of Glendale (now Justice Fox of the California Appellate Court); Director George H. Hutton of Santa Monica (deceased); Director Paul Schwab of Beverly Hills; Director C. A. Hutchinson of Colton (deceased); Special Counsel James H. Howard of Pasadena (now General Counsel of the Metropolitan Water District); President Hiram W. Wadsworth of the Colorado River Aqueduct Association, which sponsored establishment of the Metropolitan Water District, (deceased); Clayton R. Taylor of Pasadena, Chairman of the Pasadena City Board of Directors (deceased).

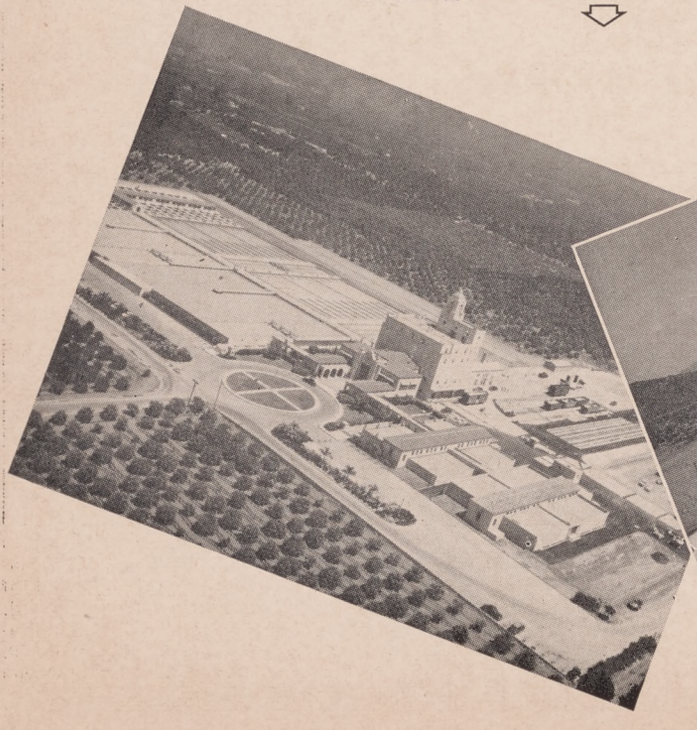
Human figures are dwarfed by giant pipeline of District aqueduct. This siphon is 16 feet in diameter and has a capacity of more than one billion gallons of water daily.



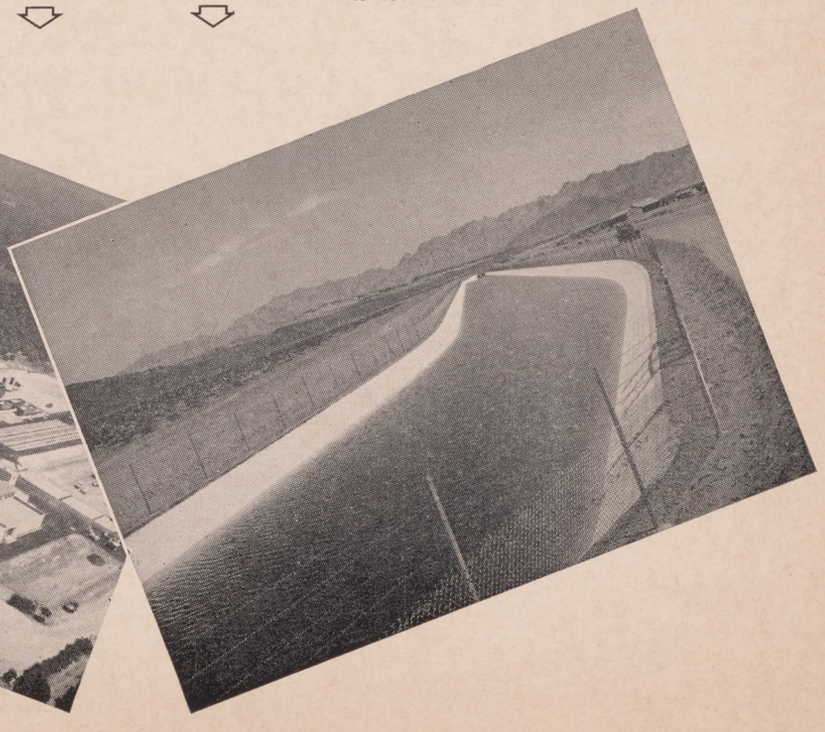
Colorado River water is boosted 291 feet up a rugged mountain side as it starts on its long journey to Southern California cities. Shown above is Intake pumping plant.

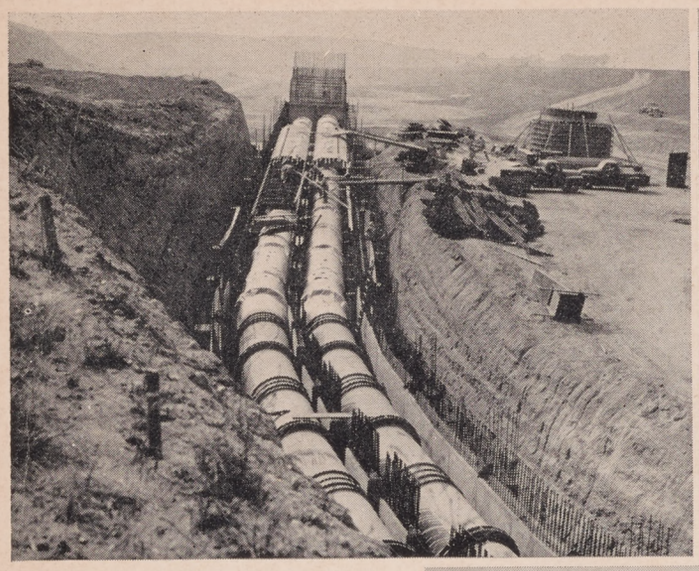
FOUR AQUEDUCT FEATURES

District's Water Softening and Filtration Plant located near La Verne, can process 200,000,000 gallons of Colorado River water daily. It is named in honor of the late F. E. Weymouth, first General Manager and Chief Engineer of the District.

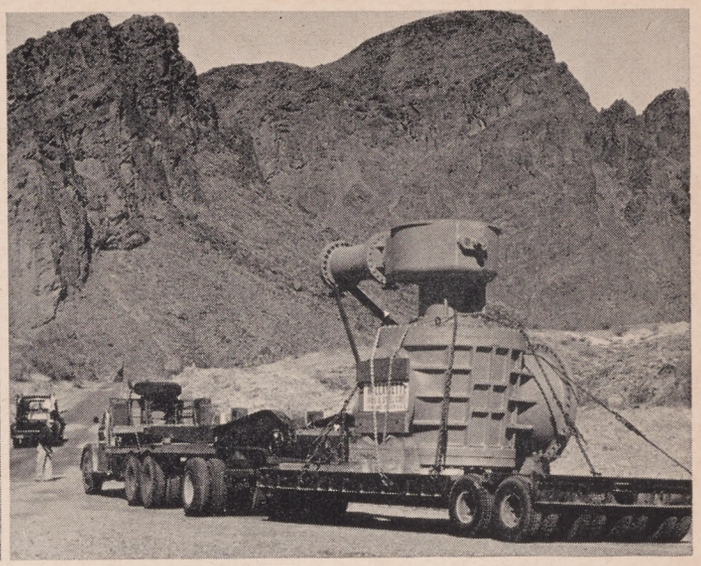


Concrete lined canals make up 63 miles of Colorado River aqueduct system which serves 50 Southern California cities in Metropolitan Water District. Total length of Aqueduct system is 457 miles.

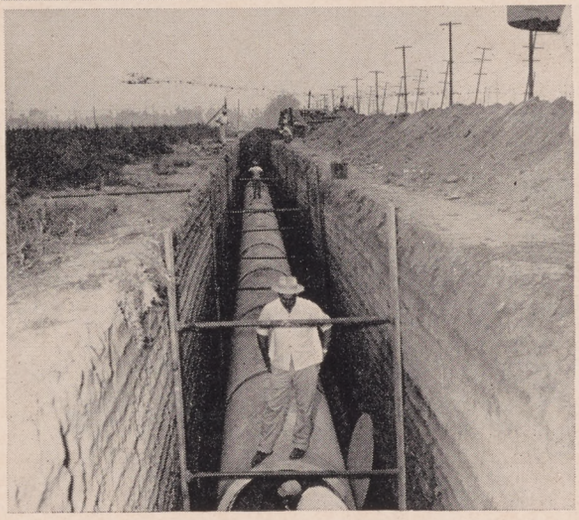




Above, work is shown in progress on the District's huge inlet and outlet pipes to the $3,900,000 Garvey reservoir. It will have a capacity of 1500 acre-feet of water.



A discharge valve weighing 34 tons, which will help pump more Colorado River water to Southern California is being trucked to Intake pumping plant.

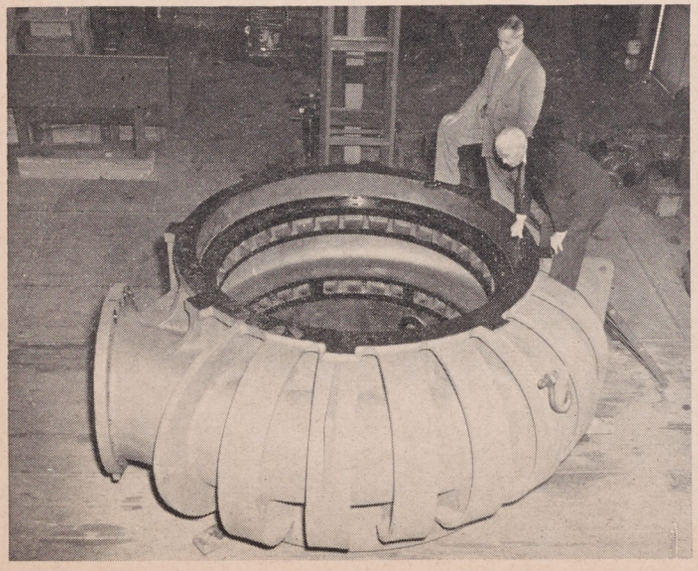


A section of 45-inch pipe is installed on the new Victoria to 223rd street lateral which will furnish more Colorado River water to the Los Angeles and Long Beach Harbor areas.

Here are a few scenes of construction operations included in the District's $52,000,000 aqueduct extension and enlargement program now under way to meet the ever increasing need for Colorado River water in this Southland area.

AQUEDUCT EXTENSION WORK

Chief Electrical Engineer E. W. Rockwell (left) and Robert Peabody, formerly in charge of pumping plant extension, inspect one of ten pump casings, each weighing 35,000 pounds, which will be installed on aqueduct system. Each pump has capacity of 90,000 gallons of water per minute.



Workmen inspect "holing through" of Cajalco tunnel October 10. The tunnel is part of the District's lower feeder line now under construction. It will bring additional supplies of Colorado River water to portions of Orange and Los Angeles counties.

Silver Anniversary

(Continued from Page One)

assessed valuation has increased from $2,200,000,000 to $6,015,000,000.

In referring to the progress of the District over twenty-five years, Board Chairman Joseph Jensen said:

"In spite of the substantial gains made by the District, we are about to enter into our greatest period of growth and prosperity. Our aqueduct is only being used now to about 20 per cent of its ultimate capacity of more than one billion gallons of water daily. This means we have water reserves to take care of another four to five million persons.

"California's Colorado River water supply is so vital for the present needs of millions of persons living in Southern California that this Silver Anniversary is a fitting occasion to give widespread public recognition of its importance."

In anticipation of increasing demands for Colorado River water by fast growing Southern California communities, the District is now engaged in a $52,000,000 expansion program.

Under the supervision of General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer, the program calls for increasing the capacity of the main aqueduct by adding two new pumps to the three pumps already in operation in each of the five pumping plants. The size of the new pumps, similar in design to those already installed, is indicated by the huge discharge valves that have already been delivered. Each valve weighs in excess of 68,000 pounds and is more than six feet in height.

Other features of the expansion program include the $3,900,000 Garvey Reservoir, which will store 1500 acre-feet of Colorado River water for distribution to eastern and southern Los Angeles county areas, and the mile and a half long Cajalco tunnel which, when completed, will become part of the District's lower feeder system that will carry Colorado River water from the Lake Mathews reservoir into portions of Orange and Los Angeles counties. On December 11 the northerly half of the San Diego County second barrel was completed.

General Manager Diemer pointed out that in a quarter of a century the District's service area has increased from 624 square miles in 1928 to more than 1750 square miles in December of this year. With the completion of the current expansion program, this area is expected to increase to approximately 2200 square miles. Commenting upon the District's continuing expansion program, General Manager Diemer said:

"Twenty-five years ago the District assumed the responsibility of bringing to Southern California a life-giving supply of Colorado River water. Over the years this obligation has been met. On the occasion of our Silver Anniversary, the District is prepared to aid the future growth and development of Southern California by providing additional supplies of Colorado River water."

MIRIAM TAYLOR

Miriam Taylor, Assistant Controller, was in charge of 1953 District Community Chest activities.

District Goes Over Top In Community Chest Drive

Once again, as in past years, District employees have reached and surpassed their Community Chest quota.

According to Miriam Taylor, Assistant Controller, who was in charge of Chest activities for the District, 300 employees pledged a total of $2901.66, more than 101 per cent of the 1953 quota set by Chest headquarters.

The average amount contributed by those employees who gave amounted to $9.67.

2nd Barrel Project

(Continued from Page One)

and D. W. Pontius, representing Los Angeles; Director Irwin E. Farrar, representing the Eastern Municipal Water District; Director A. H. Allen, representing Santa Ana; Fred A. Heilbron, Chairman of the San Diego County Water Authority and a District Director; the District's General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer; and General Counsel James H. Howard.

Other top water officials who were on hand to witness the completion of the project were Richard Holmgren, District Director and also General Manager and Chief Engineer of the San Diego County Water Authority, and E. T. Nielson, Regional Director of Region 3 for the Bureau of Reclamation.

A feature of the completion ceremonies was a Western style barbecue in Live Oak Park near Fallbrook. Host for the occasion was William A. Johnson, Director of the Johnson Western Company, Contractor on a section of the northerly half of the second barrel project. Mr. Johnson is Chairman of the Board of Directors of the American Pipe and Construction Company.

The second barrel, which is being paid for in its entirety by the District and its member unit the San Diego County Water Authority, is being supervised by the Bureau of Reclamation for the United States Navy, which advanced funds for the project.

When fully completed in 1954 the second barrel will carry Colorado River water a distance of 71 miles from the District's San Jacinto Reservoir into San Vicente Reservoir, northeast of San Diego. It will have a capacity of 145,000,000 gallons of water per day.

At the present time the District is supplying Colorado River water to 50 Southern California cities with a total population of more than 4,000,000.

Board Sets Annexation Terms For Mid-Valley Area

The Board of Directors at a meeting December 15 set forth the formal terms governing the annexation of the Mid-Valley area to the Chino Basin Municipal Water District.

The Mid-Valley area includes the communities of Cucamonga, Etiwanda and Guasti. It has an area of 134 square miles and a total assessed valuation of approximately $20,115,000.

An election has been set for February 9, at which time residents vote on the proposed annexation of the area to the Chino Basin Municipal Water District and concurrently to the Metropolitan Water District.

Left to right: Darleen Campbell, Doris Tonks and Lorraine Rudoff keep close watch on Controller A. W. McKinlay as he slices the Christmas turkey.

Entertaining with Christmas carols (left to right) Isabel Ross, Donna Greenhaw, Mary Finnigan, Doris Tonks. Back row, Walter Young, Don Brooks, Norman Griffin. Ray Floch also was in the choir but is not shown in picture. The orchestra: Evelyn Lauricella, at the piano; Paul Winn, (you can see the clarinet); and Rudy Fernandez, Saxaphone, not visible in any degree.

In the true spirit of Christmas employees join in singing carols. Front row (left to right) Henry Mills, Tom Walsh and Ed Koch, retired.

General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer welcomes George Shaffer, first employee to be retired, to the party.

John Keigan gives a few pointers to Tex Ritter as he "sings" "High Noon", accompanied by John Barnes.

Los Angeles Office Christmas Party

M. W. D.

NEWS FROM FIELD AND OFFICE

Richard B. (Dick) Ward recently dropped into the Los Angeles office to say "hello" to his friends and former associates. Dick, who for the past four years has been with the International Boundary Commission and located at Laredo, Texas, has accepted an assignment with the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation which will take him to Australia as supervisor on construction of hydroelectric works. Dick entered the service of the District 'way back in 1932 as Engineer Assistant in the Design Division. In 1935 he was made Resident Engineer on the construction of Cajalco Reservoir. He resigned from the District in October 1938 to accept a position with the U.S.B.R. Dick's new address is Box 32, c/o S.M.H.E.A., Cooma, New South Wales, Australia.

* * *

The District was saddened to learn of the death of Mrs. Vincent Preiss, wife of Station Mechanic at Hayfield Pumping Plant. Mrs. Preiss passed away on December 27, following a long illness.

* * *

EDITH MALLERY

On December 6, Edith Mallery, Accountant, became entitled to wear a twenty-year service pin.

Miss Mallery was first employed as a Junior Clerk in the Accounting Division. In August 1935 she was made a General Clerk and in December 1944 was appointed Assistant Treasurer. In May 1947 Miss Mallery became an Accountant in the Accounting Division.

BEN G. HINTON

The District this month mourned the passing of Ben G. Hinton, a veteran "aqueducter", who died December 31 after a short illness.

Ben joined the District more than twenty years ago and in the course of his long service worked on many important construction projects. He was first employed August 7, 1933 on early survey work on the original aqueduct distribution system. He received his twenty-year service-pin in August 1953.

In January 1936 Ben was made an Inspector on Cajalco Dam and the upper feeder pipelines. He later was employed as an Inspector on the construction of the second unit of the F. E. Weymouth Softening and Filtration plant near La Verne, and also as an Operator at the Plant.

At the start of the District's present expansion program, Ben worked on the construction of the new middle feeder pipeline. He was engaged in this work at the time of his death.

Ben made his home in Huntington Park, and is survived by his wife, Evelyn.

* * *

Homer Campbell, Station Chief at Gene Village, has acquired a larger and more luxurious trailer in anticipation of vacation time.

* * *

Chris Sothern, Clerk in the Accounting Division, spent her December vacation in Acapulco, Mexico.

Alan Patten, Deputy General Counsel, and his brother Jack made a 2500 mile automobile trip to Old Mexico this month. They crossed the border at Nogales and after visiting Hermosillo and Guaymas, spent some time in Alamos in the state of Sonora. They report the roads were good all the way.

* * *

Congratulations to Harold W. Sundberg, Chemist at the Softening and Filtration Plant, on the arrival of Susan Genevieve, who weighed 6 lbs. 14 oz. Harold is the son-in-law of Harry T. Swango, System Operator at Gene.

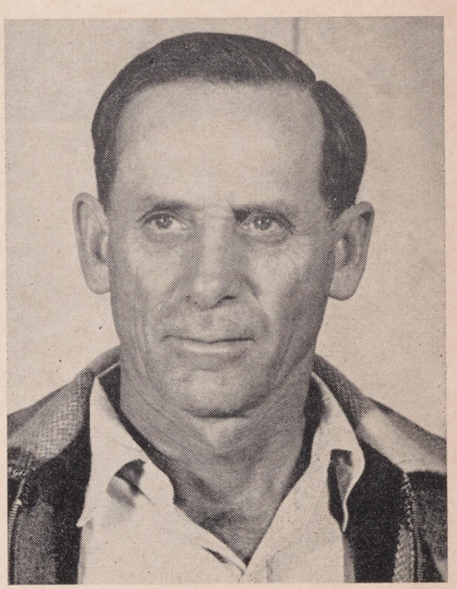
* * *

Jack Williams, Field Secretary, is mighty proud of his son Jack Jr., 15, who was recently promoted to the rank of Captain in the Deputy Auxiliary Police. The Deputy Auxiliary Police Department is a youth organization sponsored by the Los Angeles Police Department.

* * *

Gene Village residents gathered around a Christmas tree in the recreation hall and exchanged gifts. Everyone agreed it was a most enjoyable Christmas party.

* * *



FLOYD T. DAY

Floyd T. Day, who was first employed by the District as a Chainman in February 1933, earned his twenty-year service pin this month.

After leaving the District in 1934 for a few months, he was re-employed in 1935 as a Chainman. In 1940 he was made an Inspector, and on December 15, 1947 he was appointed Chief of Party.